

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBARAMONIYAN) : (a) to (d). As per the information received from the State Government, in the early morning on 30.6.1996 fire appeared at the eastern gate of the historical Jamia Masjid, Srinagar. The Security Guard on the road side and some Namazies who noticed the same, raised an alarm and also extinguished the fire. Partial damage was however caused to the eastern gate of the Masjid. A case has been registered on the incident and investigation taken up. However, at 2130 hrs. on 1.7.1996, one person by name Ab. Hamid Ahanger resident of Roshanpura Mohalla, Srinagar was caught red-handed while he was attempting to put on fire the northern gate of the Jamia Masjid. He was handed over to the Police. The person is reported to be insane. No damage was caused to the gate.

Poor Result of Schools

1649. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether many Government Higher Secondary Schools in Jammu & Kashmir have secured low percentage in the Examinations conducted by the State Board of School Education during last year and also, in the current year; and

(b) whether any inquiry has been conducted to find out the reasons for poor results and the outcome of such an inquiry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBARAMONIYAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has been regularly reviewing the working and performance of Government schools. Comparison of these schools with schools in the private-sector cannot be a fair indicator of performance as the students of private-sector schools (which are mostly in urban areas) belong generally to the elite classes and also depend greatly on private tuitions. However, steps like introduction of refresher/orientation courses for teachers on a regular basis and filling up of posts of teachers have been taken up. As a result of these steps, performance of Government Higher Secondary schools is gradually improving.

IAY

1650. SHRI K.S.R. MURTHY : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the houses collapsed fully or partially in natural calamities have been reconstructed through IAY funds; and

(b) the details of the funds released for this purpose to Andhra Pradesh Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). Central assistance under Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) is released to States for construction of houses of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, freed bonded labourers and non-SC/ST rural poor living below poverty line. In some States, releases made under IAY have been utilised for construction of houses for the rural poor affected by the natural calamities. However, no specific releases under IAY have been made to the State of Andhra Pradesh for construction of houses for the people affected by the natural calamities.

Clearance to Urban Projects of Gujarat

1651. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sanitation and water supply projects for urban areas of Gujarat pending with Central Government for clearance;

(b) whether any clearance/approval was given to projects located in the State in 1995-96; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) One water supply and three sanitation projects for urban areas of Gujarat are in a preliminary stage and require comprehensive details from technical and financial angles from the State Government before clearance can be given by the Central Government.

(b) and (c). The water supply schemes of Barwala and Surajkaradi at an estimated cost of Rs.90.94 lakhs and Rs.18.20 lakhs respectively were approved by the Central Government under the centrally Sponsored Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme in January, 1996. The cost is to be shared by the Central and State Government in equal proportion.

Sharing of Power

1652. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the demand in sharing of power made by the Government of Rajasthan from Ravi-Beas System; and

(b) the steps taken to fulfill the demand of Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b). An agreement was reached among Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and the